

Four Oaks
10/06/2008

Proposal for

Child Welfare Emergency Services

DHS Cedar Rapids Service Area

I. Summary

The summary should contain the following elements:

- Brief identification and purpose of your organization

Four Oaks provides a comprehensive array of children's and family services dedicated to achieving the agency mission to help children become successful adults. Four Oaks maintains offices in thirteen communities across Iowa and delivers community based and residential programming that serves children and families from every county in our state. Our Shelter facility in Iowa City will serve over 100 children this year from the DHS Cedar Rapids Service Area.

- The purpose and anticipated end result of your project

Through the first 6 months of 2008, 26 youth in crisis have been placed in Four Oaks' Iowa City Shelter Care by Law Enforcement/Police Holds, with each youth placed spending on average 4.92 days in care. Four Oaks is proposing to extend its Shelter staff into the Iowa City community to assist youth, families, and law enforcement officials to create options that can eliminate the presenting need for an immediate Shelter placement. Further, when law enforcement placements are necessary, Shelter staff will begin a next day follow up to work to reduce the youth's length of stay. In all cases of law enforcement referral of youth not currently adjudicated, when a youth goes home, or to a relative, Shelter staff will offer to make daily contacts with the youth and family for 30 days. By effectively diverting law enforcement Shelter bed use, Four Oaks will be able to reduce its guaranteed bed contract by 1 bed (from 10 to 9 beds per day)...or 182 beds in the 6 month pilot period.

- The number of youth and families impacted, including the number of reduced shelter beds, and the timeframe for the project

Four Oaks will be prepared to begin offering Community Shelter Services beginning January, 2009. Through the six month pilot term we expect to receive up to 26 Law Enforcement referrals that will be eligible for the service. The Community Shelter Service will support Four Oaks to reduce 182 Shelter bed days January through June, 2009 via reduction in guaranteed beds, 22 beds via reduced LOS of LE placements, and 75 beds via diversion of LE placements (279 total).

- The total anticipated budget

\$14, 250 for six months.

II. Introduction

The introduction should contain the following elements and not exceed one page:

- Brief identification of your organization's history of providing shelter services

Youth Homes of Iowa City first began operating the Ronald's St Shelter in Iowa City in 1973. Youth Homes Shelter moved to the current Waterfront facility in 1995. Youth Homes merged with Four Oaks in 1998, and the Waterfront facility continued to operate a

Shelter Care program under the new Four Oaks administrative structure. In 2004, Four Oaks opened a Shelter Care program at its Independence site on the Mental Health Institute campus.

- Describe your current licensed shelter bed and contracted shelter capacities

Four Oaks operates two Shelter Care programs. At our Independence facility in the DHS Dubuque Service Area our Shelter Care is licensed to provide 21 beds and currently has a 15 bed guaranteed contract. Four Oaks' Iowa City Shelter facility in the DHS Cedar Rapids Service Area is licensed to provide 14 beds and is currently operating with a 10 bed guaranteed contract.

- Outline your organization's interest in and capacity to provide Emergency Services

Four Oaks' interest in providing Emergency Services emerges from our understanding that children and families who can safely and successfully resolve their issues within the family home will provide those children the best opportunity to succeed as adults. Adding Emergency Services to the array of programs, services, and interventions offered by Four Oaks is consistent with our organizational value to be prepared to do whatever it takes to help at-risk children be successful.

Four Oaks is suggesting making Community Shelter Services available to Law Enforcement and youth and families in crisis to create alternatives to a Shelter placement, and/or as a vehicle to reduce the length of a Shelter stay and help a child to return home.

- Identify the lead person for the organization, along with their contact information, for this proposal

Mike Mitchell, Assistant Executive Director

5400 Kirkwood Blvd SW Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

319-364-0259

mmitchell@fouroaks.org

III. Concept/Hypothesis

Identify the intended number of shelter beds to be reduced, and the intended model of service for youth that would be diverted and/or have shortened lengths of stay in shelter. Describe the target population to be served, the model/approach of Emergency Services to be used, and rationale for this approach with the identified target population.

If this Emergency Services proposal is approved, Four Oaks will reduce 1 of the guaranteed contract beds, or 182 Shelter bed days, from January through June, 2009. Our proposal would be operationalized as follows: On every Shelter shift between the hours of 3PM and 11PM, Four Oaks will have a staff designated to respond to Law Enforcement/Community referrals. This staff person will be prepared to meet with youth and families in crisis at the Police/Sherriff's office, at school, at a hospital, or at the Shelter itself. Our "Community Shelter Service" staff will work to help the youth and family problem solve the issues contributing to the crisis, or consider options to placement in the Shelter facility. Family participation in Community Shelter Services will be voluntary. Four Oaks designated Community Shelter Service staff will have the capacity to provide a crisis/diversion once every four hours during the hours of operation. The safety assessment procedures, and approval processes to divert selected youth from admission to shelter will be developed in further detail, in collaboration with DHS, JCS, Law Enforcement, and other Shelter programs before the project commences.

If the placement can not be immediately diverted, or if a placement is made by Law Enforcement/Community outside of the normal Community Shelter staff duty hours (for example, a police referral admitted at 1AM), then the Community Shelter staff will begin to contact and engage family members to work through precipitating issues and create the opportunity to return home, to a relative, to a neighbor, or friend the day following the placement.

In both types of cases, either after a placement is successfully diverted, or after a youth returns home from a brief Shelter stay...Four Oaks Community Shelter staff will offer to the family to extend their support and relationship for up to 30 days to help assure that the precipitating crisis is truly resolved. Community Shelter staff will make at least two contacts with the youth and family every day during that period, and will make at minimum 3 in-home visits per week during the 30 day follow up. Community Shelter staff will provide concrete problem solving, and will be able to suggest other services in the Iowa City area that will support youth and families to be successful together. The Community Shelter Service max capacity for 30 day follow up service will be 4 cases at any one time.

IV. Supporting Data

List the baseline data for the CRSA, for FY09 YTD (all projects should use the same SA data) – and the target population for the project (agency-specific).

	Cedar Rapids Service Area (North) Utilization	Project's Target Population
# DHS placements	99	
# JCS placements	65	
# Police placements	115	26 (Four Oaks Iowa City Shelter)
# Minority Youth (LE Placements)	33	15 (Four Oaks Iowa City Shelter)
Average LOS (LE Placements)	5.04	4.92 (Four Oaks Iowa City Shelter)
Other		

V. Goals/Objectives

State the desired goals and objectives to address the needs/problems stated above. Also include key benefits of reaching goals/objectives.

- Goal 1: Provide a Community Shelter Service alternative to Shelter Care Placement.

Objective: During the 6 month pilot period up to 15 Law Enforcement placements will be diverted from Shelter care.

Objective: During the 6 month pilot period LOS of Law Enforcement referrals that are placed at Shelter will reduce to an average of 3 days.

Objective: During the 6 month pilot period 15 families will elect to participate in the 30 day follow up service.

Benefit: Expect to reduce Shelter bed utilization by at least 279 days (182 days guaranteed bed reduction, 11 LE cases placed with avg. LOS reduced by 2 days, 15 LE cases diverted with current avg. LOS 4.92 days).

Benefit: 450 days of service provided to 15 families electing to participate in the 30 day follow up service.

VI. Timetable

Provide detailed information on the expected timetable for the project. Break the project into phases, and provide a schedule for each phase.

	Description of Work	Start and End Dates
Preparation	Training Shelter staff. Orientation to Law Enforcement Community.	November 2008
Implementation	Shelter schedule includes availability of designated Community Shelter Service staff. Available for first referrals January 2009.	January 2009
Review/Adjust	Review overall Shelter utilization and data on law enforcement cases diverted by Community Shelter Service	March 2009
Evaluation	Final report on law enforcement cases diverted, bed days saved.	June 2009

VII. Budget

State the proposed costs and budget of the project for January – June, 2009.

	Description	Revenue/Expense
Revenue	From State share of Shelter bed reduction	\$14,250
Staff Costs	Salary and benefits	\$13,242
Facility Costs		
Indirect Costs	Mileage and admin	\$1,008
	Total	\$14,250

VIII. Assumptions and Questions

List the critical requirements, possibilities and concerns – to be answered before and/or during this project.

Assumes an amendment to the current Shelter contract guaranteeing payment for 9 beds during the pilot period, and a one time pilot project “grant” payment of \$14,250.

Question: can administrative rules be amended to allow County contribution to this service?

Question: do current procedures for approving the use of unallocated beds remain in place “as is?”

